



News for Immediate Release

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DWR Dutch Slough Restoration Project Report Available for Public Comment

SACRAMENTO – As California focuses in on the Delta and its waterways, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has released the Dutch Slough Tidal Marsh Restoration Project Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR.) The report is available online for a 45-day comment period which ends on Friday March 7, 2014. The SEIR covers design details that have been refined since the Project's EIR was finalized in 2010.

“Not only is the Dutch Slough Restoration Project truly comprehensive in its scope, but it is identified as an early action project in the 2009 water legislation package,” said DWR Director Mark Cowin. “One of the primary goals directed by the water package's new policy is to restore the Delta, and this project shows that new policy in action.”

Covering 1,178 acres in Eastern Contra Costa County, the project site is currently used as pasture. Along with the potential for restoring more than six miles of shoreline, the goal is to restore Delta tidal wetland habitat for recovery and protection of native aquatic and terrestrial species within the critical transition zone between salt water and fresh water. The design also incorporates landscape adaptation strategies to accommodate changes due to sea level rise over time.

Dutch Slough was envisioned and will be built to become a living laboratory which will set the stage for hundreds of thousands of acres elsewhere and will become the largest restored fresh water tidal marsh in the Delta by the time all three phases are completed in 2020.

Additionally, the project will provide recreational benefits including public access through more than four miles of trails, shoreline access, and a public park that will be developed by the City of Oakley on 55 acres adjacent to the restoration project.

The Department is working in cooperation with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, State Coastal Conservancy, Reclamation District 2137, Contra Costa Water District, Contra Costa County Flood Control District, and Ironhouse Sanitary District to implement this project.

Currently, a design team is working under contract to Reclamation District 2137 to finalize project design in consultation with an expert science team with Delta-wide experience. Project construction is anticipated to begin this summer.

Preparation of the SEIR was funded by the Department of Water Resources and the California Coastal Conservancy. The total project cost for restoration is anticipated to be \$35 million, and will be paid for by the Department of Water Resources, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, State Coastal Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Email comments must be received by midnight March 7, and surface mail must be postmarked by March 7.

Please contact Patty Finfrock with questions about the project or the SEIR at (916) 651-0851 or By email to: Patricia.Finfrock@water.ca.gov

By surface mail to: Department of Water Resources
FloodSAFE Environmental Stewardship and Statewide Resources Office
(FESSRO)
1416 9th Street, Suite 1623
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Supplemental EIR is available at this web
address: <http://water.ca.gov/floodsafe/fessro/environmental/dee/dutchslough/index.cfm>

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The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.